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COUNTRY Polish-occupied Germany

REPORT

TOPIC 1. Soviet and Polish Troops in Oppeln

2. Soviet Troops in Schneidemuehl

EVALUATION

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REMARKS

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Troops in Oppeln.

1. Prior to October 1950, the undamaged barracks installation on the eastern edge of Oppeln (P 51/J 17), which formerly quartered a German replacement battalion, was occupied by Soviet troops. The installation is bounded by Malapane Strasse on the north, by Sedan Strasse on the west and by ul. 3-go-Maja, formerly Zimmer Strasse, on the south. An apartment house for Soviet officers and their families was located southwest of the installation, on the north side of Zimmer Strasse. A building opposite the Peter and Paul Church on Zimmer Strasse housed the Polish UB (Security Police) headquarters.
2. In the fall of 1950, Polish tanks were seen in the former Artillerie Kaserne on the west bank of the Oder River, on the southwestern edge of Halbendorf (P 51/J 17).
3. The former Nachrichten Kaserne about 500 meters northwest of the western railroad station, on the north side of the railroad line to Brieg (P 51/H 33), was occupied by Soviet troops. (1)
4. The barracks installation about 1,500 meters southeast of the western railroad station and south of Stefanshoech quartered Polish soldiers who wore khaki uniforms with wrapped leggings and round visor-type caps with a red band and the Polish eagle on them. Prior to their military training, the soldiers had been committed to work in coal mines and on building sites outside the city for one year and were now serving their term of active duty. They said that their quarters were occupied beyond capacity. (2)

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5. The MO (Militia) headquarters was located in the former post office on Krakauerstrasse on the eastern bank of the Oder River, about 40 meters west of the main railroad station.

6. No Soviet and Polish troops were in Klosterbrueck (Czarnowasi) (P 51/J 18), where about 20 private apartment houses were vacated by Soviet officers and soldiers in the summer of 1950. [redacted] the Soviet troops moved to Oppeln at that time. 50X1-HUM

7. The northernmost bridge across the Oder River in Oppeln, which had been destroyed during the war, was reconstructed of wood to allow traffic of vehicles and pedestrians. The southern railroad bridge was rebuilt as an arched steel construction after World War II. The bridge between had not been reconstructed. (3)

8. In the summer of 1950, [redacted] Soviet and Polish troops holding exercises with tanks and artillery pieces in a restricted area near Lansdorf (P 51/H 96), on both sides of the Oppeln-Neisse (P 51/H 75) road. 50X1-HUM

Soviet Troops in Schneidemuehl.

9. In October 1950, Soviet soldiers were observed in the streets of Schneidemuehl. No Polish soldiers were seen there. Soviet inscriptions were observed in some shops and inns on the main street. [redacted] the airfield was used by Soviet units. (4) 50X1-HUM

10. In the summer of 1950, Soviet troop trains passed through Chodziez (P 53/S 12), heading for Schneidemuehl. Soviet express trains with Soviet officers, soldiers and some civilians were daily observed heading toward Poznan (P 53/X 26).

Comments.

(1) According to information of November 1950 [redacted] only the barracks installations in Odervorstadt, Stefanshoech, Halben-dorf and Neudorf were occupied by Soviet troops.

(2) The 6th Tank Regt of the 4th MD was identified in Oppeln prior to September 1950. It was reported [redacted] to have been quartered in the barracks installation in Stefanshoech in February 1950. However, this barracks installation was also reported to have been occupied by Soviets in November 1950.

(3) The double-tracked railroad bridge across the Oder River, which was about 178 meters long, was destroyed in January 1945. Its reconstruction is reported for the first time.

(4) There have been previous indications that the airfield may be in use, either by Soviets or Poles.

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